

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/510,271

Applicant(s)

BELLEKENS ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

James D. Stein

2874

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 03/27/06.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,7-10,12-16,19,20 and 22.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 0506.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

James D. Stein
Patent Examiner, AU 2874

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is responsive to the amendment filed on 03/27/06, which has been fully considered and entered. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended, claims 2-6, 11, 17-18, 21 and 23 and 21 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 7-10, 12-16, 19-20 and 22 are pending in the application.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Laura Kelly on 05/12/06.

In order to place the application in a condition for allowance, the claims have been amended as follows:

Claim 12 (currently amended) An optical circuit enclosure enclosing at least one optical circuit or optical circuit component together with lengths of optical fibre which extend outwards of the enclosure for optically connecting the enclosed circuit(s) or component(s) to an external circuit or component, the enclosure comprising:

a tray-type container containing the at least one enclosed or circuit or component, and further containing the lengths of optical fibre; and

a tamper-evident closure member sealing the container around the enclosed circuit or component and the enclosed lengths of optical fibre.

Claim 20 (currently amended) An optical circuit enclosure enclosing at least one optical circuit or optical circuit component together with lengths of optical fibre which extend outwards of the enclosure for optically connecting the enclosed or circuit or component to an external circuit or component, the enclosure comprising:

a tray-type container containing the at least one enclosed circuit or component, and further containing the lengths of optical fibre;

and a tamper-evident closure member sealing the said container around the enclosed circuit or component and the enclosed lengths of optical fibre, wherein optical fibres entering and/or leaving the enclosure are sealed between opposed portions of the tamper-evident closure member.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 7-10, 12-16, 19-20 and 22 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With regard to claims 1 and 7-10, none of the cited prior art discloses or suggests the optical circuit enclosure previously claimed, wherein the sealing means comprises a pair of sealing members and the optical fibres are located between the strips and sealed to the strips by the application of heat and/or pressure. This feature is unique to the claimed invention and provides more dynamic sealing of excess optical fiber than the prior art. It would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the prior art to include this feature, as there is no suggestion that it would be advantageous or useful in any way.

With regard to claims 12-16, 19-20 and 22, none of the cited prior discloses or suggests the optical fiber enclosure previously discussed above further comprising a tamper-evident

sealing means. Optical fiber organizers such as the present invention (and the cited prior art) generally store excess optical fiber for the splicing and coupling purposes. As such, the fiber or components stored therein are not generally sensitive or expensive equipment/systems in and of themselves, but rather passive hardware components to be used in separate systems; and thus are not of significant value other than the cost of the components themselves. Therefore, it would not have been obvious at the time of the invention to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the prior art to include a tamper-evident sealing means as claimed. There is no suggestion or motivation in the prior art that such a sealing means would be advantageous or useful in any way.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James D. Stein whose telephone number is (571) 272-2132. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00am-4:30pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rodney Bovernick can be reached on (571) 272-2344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

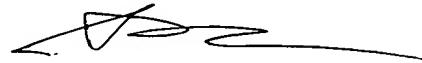
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

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may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



James D. Stein
Patent Examiner, AU 2875



SUNG PAK
PRIMARY EXAMINER